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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/846,777	05/01/2001	Robert F. Zepf	USFFIL.097A	4606

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EXAMINER

MENON, KRISHNAN S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1723	

DATE MAILED: 02/19/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

A98

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/846,777	ZEPF, ROBERT F.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Krishnan S Menon	1723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the corresponding address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 December 2002.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-68 were pending in this application, of which claims 20-68 were cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

1. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being clearly anticipated by Wang et. al.(US 6,146,747).

Wang (747) discloses a polymer membrane mesh (applicant uses 'mesh' to mean a coagulated structure with reticular network of flow channels; ref: specification page 2 last para to page 3 first para) comprising a surface with minimum pores and opposite surface with maximum pores, with a porous support in between the two surfaces. (col 6: 10-30). The average pore size of one of the surfaces would be greater than 50 microns by the pore size ratios defined by Wang (col 6 lines 11-30). In col 6 lines 11-30, Wang teaches that the microporous membrane has a surface with minimum pores and an opposite surface with maximum pores, and the ratio of the average diameter of the minimum pores to the average diameter of the maximum pores could be from 5 to as high as 500. Compare this with the isotropic microporous surface having minimum pore size of 0.1-3 microns, these ratios would give the opposite surface pore sizes from 50-1500 microns (See Table A, column labeled 'microporous surface' and lines 15, 17, 21, 22, and 24 for isotropic pores. Isotropic pore size would also be the average pore size, since isotropic means 'exhibiting properties of same

values'; Miriam Webster's Dictionary). The membrane has a bubble point about 0.5 psi or more (col 6: 25-30) and water permeabilities in the range of 30,000 ml/min for a 90 mm dia disc at 10 psi pressure (col 7: 30-38). Membrane thickness is about 25 to 140 microns. Membranes can be made from polyosulfones (col 2: 39-58; col 3: 59-60); PVdF (col 5(45-65); hydrophilic (col 6: 39-63); hydrophilic component PVP; with ratio of polymer to hydrophilic component at 12/30 to 20/1.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 12/6/02 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that after the amendment, the Wang (747) reference does not teach every element of claim 1, because Wang teaches only membranes with surface pores less than 50 microns. The examiner finds that Wang does teach membranes of surface pores greater than 50 microns as described in the rejection.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be

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calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Krishnan S Menon whose telephone number is 703-305-5999. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wanda L Walker can be reached on 703-308-0457. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

Krishnan S. Menon
Patent Examiner
February 4, 2003

Walker
W. L. WALKER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700